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Operational rept. for quarterly period
ending 31 Jul 69.

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(18) OACSFOR

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGDA (M) (10 Nov 69)

FOR OT-UT-693141

21 November 1969

SUBJECT: ~~Operational Report~~ Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 97th Military
Police Battalion (U) Ending 31 July 1969 (U)

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2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate
benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and
may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

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as

ROBERT E. LYNCH
Colonel, AGC
Acting The Adjutant General

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97th Military Police Battalion

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 97TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION
APO San Francisco 96312

AVBGF-JB

12 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 97th Military Police Battalion for Period
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. (C) Section 1. Operations: Significant Activities.

a. Mission: Provide military police direct support and provost marshal type services to II CTZ (South), to sub-area commanders, tactical unit commanders, commanders without military police assigned support and others as directed by the Commanding Officer, 16th Military Police Group, utilizing personnel and equipment resources assigned or attached to the 97th Military Police Battalion.

b. Organization: (See Inclosure 1)

c. Personnel, Morale and Discipline.

(1) Decorations.

TYPE	TOTAL AWARDED
Silver Star	2
Legion of Merit	1
Bronze Star	14
Bronze Star with V Device	2
Air Medal	2
Army Commendation Medal	32
Purple Heart	5

(2) Key Personnel Assignments and Departures.

(a) Assignments

Month	Assignments	Job Title	Date
May	CPT Jerome Romminger	CO, 218th MP Co	1 May 69
	SFC John E. McWaters	Personnel Sgt, IHHD	4 May 69
	MAJ Samuel A. Hull	XO, 97th MP Bn	16 May 69
June	1LT Kenneth M. Yancey	Opns Officer, 178th MP Det	2 Jun 69
	SFC Nicholas Luque	Mess Steward, 630th MP Co	4 Jun 69
	SFC Morris A. Brown	Mess Steward, 210th MP Co	5 Jun 69
	SFC James McDowell	Supply NCO, S4, 97th MP Bn	12 Jun 69

FOR OT UT
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1
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12 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 97th Military Police Battalion for Period
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS, CSFOR-65 (R1)

Month	Assignments	Job Title	Date
July	1LT Dean F. O'Neil	Plt Ldr, Co D, 51st Inf	3 Jul 69
	SFC James A. Shearer	Plt Sgt, 630th MP Co	8 Jul 69
	CPT Gail O. Reed	S3, 97th MP Bn	11 Jul 69
	LTC Sam H. Smith	CO, 97th MP Bn	15 Jul 69

(b) Departures

Month	Departures	Job Title	Date
May	CPT Frank A. Ursomarso	S1/Adj, 97th MP Bn	8 May 69
	SFC George D. Barnett	Plt Sgt, 630th MP Co	10 May 69
	MAJ John H. Jeans	S3, 97th MP Bn	23 May 69
June	1LT Terry J. Taulborg	Plt Ldr, 981st MP Co	1 Jun 69
	MSG Penwood Cherrywell	Asst Opns Sgt, 178th MP Det	1 Jun 69
	SFC William J. Silfies	Plt Sgt, Co D, 51st Inf	5 Jun 69
	PSG Robert C. Matherson	Plt Sgt, Co D, 51st Inf	11 Jun 69
	SFC Robert W. Sarles	Plt Sgt, Co D, 51st Inf	16 Jun 69
	MAJ Audrey J. Sharpton	XO, 97th MP Bn	24 Jun 69
	CPT Wallace Walker	PM, Tay Hoa	29 Jun 69
	LTC David J. Poel	CO, 97th MP Bn	16 Jul 69
July	SFC Leotis Duren	Plt Sgt, Co D, 51st Inf	13 Jul 69
	CPT Paul V. Lowery	Opns Off, 178th MP Det	14 Jul 69
	SFC Robert A. Gooding	Plt Sgt, 218th MP Co	20 Jul 69
	MSG Robert L. Lowery	MSG, 218th MP Co	30 Jul 69

(3) Casualties

(a) Battle Losses

	OFF	WO	EM	TOTAL
<u>1</u> Killed	0	0	0	0
<u>2</u> Wounded	0	0	3	3

(b) Non-Battle Losses

	OFF	WO	EM	TOTAL
<u>1</u> Killed	0	0	1	1
<u>2</u> Wounded	0	0	1	1

(4) reenlistments:

	Eligible	reenlistments
(a) 1st Term RA	3	1
(b) 1st Career	6	6
(c) AUS	15	1
(d) Other (N/A/EA)	0	0

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(5) Civilian Personnel: HQ, 97th MP Bn: 19 employees authorized by TDA P5 WFP EAA 99; 178th MP Det (PM): 63 employees authorized by TDA P5 WFR EEA 99.

(6) R & R	<u>Month</u>	<u>Per cent utilized</u>
(a) First month of report period	May	90%
(b) Second month of report period	June	76%
(c) Third month of report period	July	97%

(7) Strengths

(a) As of first day of May 1969:	<u>AUTH</u>			<u>ASG</u>		
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
	28	2	663	33	2	754
(b) As of last day of July 1969:	<u>AUTH</u>			<u>ASG</u>		
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
	28	2	639	28	2	655

(8) Extensions of Overseas Tours

(a) Total Extensions (includes 6 mo.)	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
May	0	0	18
June	0	0	33
July	0	0	40
(b) Under PL 89-735 (6 mos.)	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
May	0	0	11
June	0	0	14
July	0	0	16

(9) Discipline, Law and Order	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>
(a) Special Courts	0	2	0
(b) Summary Courts	1	3	1
(c) Article 15, UCMJ (Fld Gr/Co Pr)	1/15	2/8	2/12

(10) Congressional Inquiries. Three congressional inquiries were received and answered during the reporting period.

(11) News Releases. There were 37 hometown news releases forwarded for publication.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 97th Military Police Battalion for Period
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSRO-65 (M)

(12) Savings Program Participation: Savings Bonds-79%; Soldier's Deposits - 13%.

d. Intelligence and Counterintelligence.

(1) Intelligence summaries were received on a timely basis during the reporting period from the 18th MP Bde, 16th MP Gp, IFFV HQs, and US Army Support Command, C&B. Intelligence information obtained by this headquarters is sufficient to support its mission, and it analyzed and disseminated to subordinate elements.

(2) Counterintelligence inspections were conducted at this headquarters and subordinate units on 1, 2, 3 and 4 June 1969.

(3) One suspected administrative violation occurred, at a subordinate unit, which involved the possible compromise of C.O.I. items. Reports were forwarded to higher headquarters and new C.O.I. Items were issued. Closer control measures were implemented by the battalion communications officer.

(4) Intelligence Spot Reports processed - 107

(5) Security action processed - 32

(6) Intelligence sources are:

(a) Intelligence Spot Reports from subordinate units.

(b) Intelligence summaries from higher headquarters.

(c) Intelligence summaries from Cam Ranh Bay Support Command.

(d) Daily intelligence briefings from Cam Ranh Bay Support Command.

(e) Coordination with local military intelligence units.

(f) National Police reports and situation documents.

e. Plans, Operations and Training.

(1) Operations

(a) Law Enforcement.

1. Military Police patrols: 26 Military Police patrols are committed between 0700-1900 hours daily and 21 Military Police patrols are committed between 1900-0700 hours daily.

2. Combined Police patrols: At the end of the reporting period the

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 97th Military Police Battalion for Period
Ending 31 July 1969, RGS CSFOG-65 (M1)

battalion had a total of 22 combined police patrols, composed of US Military Police, ARVN Military Police, ARVN Military Police and ARVN National Police.

3. Combined Police checkpoints: At the end of the reporting period the battalion had a total of 11 combined check points composed of US Military Police, ARVN Military Police, ARVN Military Police, RVN National Police, and US Air Force Security Police.

(b) Security.

1. Military Police Highway Patrol Convoy Escorts: Military Police highway patrols under control of PMO's located at Cam Ranh Bay and Nha Trang escorted 93 convoys from Cam Ranh Bay to Phan Rang, 92 convoys from Cam Ranh Bay to Nha Trang, and 92 convoys from Cam Ranh Bay to the Vinh Hoa area.

2. Military Police Convoy Escorts: Military Police convoy escorts escorted 54 long distance convoys, as follows: Da Lat 18; Ban Me Thuot 22; Sao Loc 12; Phan Thiet 2. All escorts originated at Cam Ranh Bay.

3. At the end of the reporting period the battalion manned a total of 32 physical security posts and 21 sentry dog posts.

(c) Changes in the attached or assigned units. Operational control of Headquarters, 961st MP Co (Sentry Dog) was restored to Headquarters, 16th MP Group; the unit remains attached to this battalion for administration and logistics.

(d) There have been no changes of the battalion area of responsibility.

(e) PW Operations: During the reporting period 137 PW were handled.

(2) Training.

(a) In-Country Training School: During the reporting period 337 onlisted personnel were trained at the four-day in-country training course conducted by this battalion, prior to shipment to their units of assignment with the 16th MP Group.

(b) V-100 Crew Training: Upon receipt of the first XM-706 Armored Cars, a program of crew training was initiated on 21 June 1969. This training consists of driving, gunnery and crew drill with emphasis on cross training of crew members.

f. Communications Activities.

(1) During the reporting period an AN/GRC-142 Radio-teletype set was received and replaced the AN/GRC-46 equipment previously used.

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A.V. GF-113

12 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 97th Military Police Battalion for Period Ending 31 July 1969, ACS CSFOR-05 (AL) 11 AUG 1969

(2) During the reporting period a Battalion Command Net was established. Due to the relatively fixed positions of Battalion units, this net is intended primarily for use within and around the Command Peninsula.

(3) The battalion became a unit member of the Joint Defense Operations Command (JDOC) and is a Ground Defense Unit.

g. Logistics:

(1) Total equipment mileage during the reporting period was 49,669 miles.

(2) Major shortages are in communications equipment. Major items of shortage are radios - AN/PRT 4, AN/PRT 9, AN/PRT 25 and -12 series.

h. Civic Action: The battalion continued to furnish various foodstuffs and clothing to orphans in the Cam Ninh Bay and Nha Trang areas.

i. Self-Help:

(1) HQ, 97th MP Bn: Cam Ranh Bay - a new indigenous personnel latrine was constructed.

(2) 218th HP Co:

(a) NHA THUONG: a new outdoor theater was constructed, porches on each barracks were enlarged, improvements were made to the mess hall including the addition of an air conditioned break room for use by cooks, bunkers were improved and repaired, the dry room was remodeled and flowers were planted in the company area.

(b) VUNG RO BAY: constructed new living quarters and a day room and installed showers in the latrine facilities.

(c) BAN ME THUOT: a new military police station was constructed and living quarters are being paneled with plywood.

(d) TUY HOA: different unit area was acquired and improvements are being made to barracks, military police station and supply room.

(3) 630th MP Co: PHAN THIET - billets were constructed by the detachment to enable them to move from tents. Day room/lounge combination and sun deck were also constructed.

(4) Co D, 51st Inf: PHAN RANG - floor was tiled and wall paneling was installed in the mess hall. Barracks partitions and rooms were constructed in the barracks and a day room/lounge was constructed. An NCO lounge was also constructed.

2. (U) Section 2, Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations and Recommendations.

2. Personnel. None.

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AVBGF-JB

12 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 97th Military Police Battalion for Period
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

b. Operations.

(1) Aviation Support:

(a) Observation: The dispersion of subordinate units requires dedicated aviation support for command and control purposes, visual route reconnaissance and timely response for police and investigative assistance.

(b) Evaluation: The distances and road conditions to isolated areas preclude frequent visits for command and control purposes. A lone vehicle cannot travel to these isolated areas and must either be attached to one of the infrequent convoys travelling to the desired area or additional personnel and vehicles organic to this unit must provide necessary security. The resulting use of vehicles and personnel lessens the unit's ability to meet commitments of priority missions.

(c) Recommendation: That one rotary wing aircraft (HULD) be dedicated daily for operational commitments of this battalion.

(2) XM 706 Exhaust Deflector:

(a) Observation: During range firing of the M-73 machine guns mounted on the XM-706 Armored Car, it was discovered that the guns could not be fired to the rear when the guns were fully depressed because of an obstruction caused by the exhaust deflector.

(b) Evaluation: The metal exhaust deflector which extends approximately five inches above the hull of the car, and serves to deflect vehicle exhaust fumes upward, created the obstruction. Removal of the deflector, accomplished by removing four bolts from the exhaust grillwork, eliminated the obstruction. Use of the vehicles with the deflectors removed has shown that there is no danger of exhaust fumes being drawn into the crew compartment.

(c) Recommendation: That metal exhaust deflectors be removed from XM-706 Armored Cars.

(3) XM-706 Armored Car Weapon Racks:

(a) Observation: Weapon racks in the XM-706 Armored Car will not accept the M-16 rifle.

(b) Evaluation: Weapon racks located within the XM-706, except the single rack located horizontally on the engine firewall next to the rear hatch, have insufficient clearance for the length of the M-16 rifle. The racks are designed for M-1 carbines.

(c) Recommendation: That crews of XM-706 Armored Cars be issued CAR-15 rifles with collapsible stocks.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 97th Military Police Battalion for Period
Ending 31 July 1969, APO CSFOR-65 (id)

- c. Training. None.
- d. Intelligence. None.
- e. Logistics. None.
- f. Organization. None.
- g. Other. None.

~~1 Incl~~

~~1. Organizational~~

~~Chart~~

Incl wd HQ, DA

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - Commander-in-Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GROD-DT,
APO 96558
- 3 - Commanding General, United States Army, Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,
APO 96375
- 5 - Commanding Officer, 16th Military Police Group, ATTN: AVBGF-B,
APO 96240

S.M.H. Smith
S.M.H. SMITH

LTC, MPC

Commanding

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AVBGF (21 AUG 69) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 97th Military Police Battalion
for the Period Ending 31 July 1969, RGS, CSFOR-65 (RI)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 16TH MILITARY POLICE GROUP, APO 96240 21 August 1969

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army (ACSFOR, DA), Washington, D.C. 20130
Commanding Officer, 18th Military Police Brigade, ATTN: AVBGC,
APO 96491

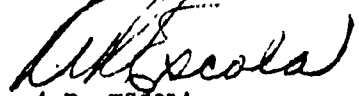
1. (U) The Operational Report - Lessons Learned for the Quarterly
Period Ending 31 July 1969, for the 97th Military Police Battalion,
APO 96312, is submitted.

2. (U) This command considers the report adequate. The following
comments refer to parts of the report as indicated:

a. Section 2, paragraph b(1): Concur. The mission and
dispersion of a military police battalion deployed in support of a
land area in excess of 20,000 miles makes the dedication of
appropriate (UHID) aircraft mandatory. This particular battalion
provides area military police support to the southern portion of the
largest Corps Tactical Zone in South Vietnam with subordinate elements
deployed at eight widely scattered locations. Dedicated air support
is absolutely essential to allow the commander and his staff the
opportunity to effectively supervise operations.

b. Section 2, paragraph b(2): Concur with the observation;
nonconcur with the evaluation and recommendation concerned. The problem
is not solved by removing parts from the vehicle, since the M-73
machine guns, when fully depressed and pointed over the back of the
vehicle, are aimed directly at the engine compartment itself.
Development of either some sort of vertical stop, or installation of
a traversing bar or rack is recommended.

c. Section 3, paragraph b(3): Concur. Maneuver room inside
the XM706 (V-100) armored car is insufficient to allow employment of
bulky weapons. M-14's are completely impractical, and will not fit
in the racks provided. M-16's are better, and the racks can be modified
to accept the weapons. Nevertheless, the new CAR-15 rifle, now
available in limited quantities, appears to be ideally suited for
crews of all types of armored vehicles, including the XM706.

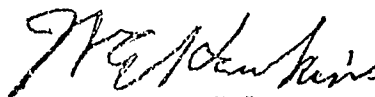

A.R. ESCOLA
Colonel, MFC
Commanding

AVBGC-O. (12 August 1969) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 97th Military Police Battalion for Period
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 18TH MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE, APO 96491 13 Sep 69

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,
APO 96375

1. (U) The report with 1st Indorsement has been reviewed and is considered adequate as modified below.
2. (U) Reference item concerning possible security violation, paragraph 1d (3), basic correspondence. Originally, a CEOI item was thought to have been lost. Immediate investigation, however, revealed that the item in question had been merely misplaced, and that there had been no compromise of classified information. A complete investigation was conducted, reports forwarded, and appropriate disciplinary action administered to personnel involved. At the time of this incident, units were issuing complete CEOI booklets; this practice has been discontinued and military police patrols now receive only an extract of applicable CEOI items. This headquarters has reviewed the case in question, and the investigation and corrective actions are considered adequate.
3. (U) Reference item concerning rotary-wing aircraft support, paragraph 2b (1), page 7, basic correspondence and paragraph 2a, 1st Indorsement: Concur. A recommendation that a rotary-wing aircraft section be assigned at military police brigade headquarters has been submitted to Headquarters, USARV, and will be included in the next revision of MTOE 19-262G for Headquarters, 18th Military Police Brigade. As an interim measure, continued use should be made of aircraft support available through local coordination.
4. (U) Reference item concerning the XM-706 exhaust deflector, paragraph 2b (2), page 7, basic correspondence and paragraph 2b, 1st Indorsement: Non-concur. When fully depressed, the machine guns in question will fire upon various parts of the vehicle and upon other crewmen. This problem cannot be solved by removing exhaust deflectors. A deck clearance cam for manually operated turrets, and a cam operated deck clearance valve for power turrets, are available from Cadillac Gage Corporation, manufacturer of the XM-706. However, the XM-706 was accepted by the Army without these devices. Recommend that these safety devices be accepted, included in future XM-706 shipments, and made available to all units currently employing this vehicle.
5. (U) Reference item concerning individual weapons for XM-706 crews, paragraph 2b (3), page 7, basic correspondence and paragraph 2c, 1st Indorsement: Concur. Due to the extremely confined nature of the XM-706 fighting compartment, the M-16 rifle is impractical for crew use. Recommend that sufficient quantities of the CAR-15 be made available for acceptance in lieu of the M-16 on a basis of four per XM-706 authorized.



W. E. HAWKINS
Colonel, MFC
Acting Commander

CF:
CO, 16th MP Gp

AVHGC-DST (12 Aug 69) 3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 97th Military Police Battalion for
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

5 OCT 1969

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco
96375

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons
Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 July 1969 from Headquarters,
97th Military Police Battalion.

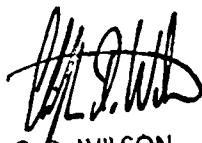
2. Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning "Aviation Support", section II, page 7,
paragraph 2b(1); nonconcur. Direct support aircraft for II Corps MP units
can be obtained by submitting aircraft requirements with justifications
through the 16th Military Police Group to Headquarters, I FFV. No further
action by USARPAC or DA is required.

b. Reference item concerning "XM-706 Exhaust Deflector", section II,
page 7, paragraph 2b(2) and 2d Indorsement, paragraph 4; concur. The
requirement for a deck clearance device will be included in the forthcoming
vehicle suitability report to AMC and TACOM. Recommend that AMC take
action to provide this safety device on all future XM-706's shipped to RVN
and that modification kits be provided for installation on vehicles currently
in RVN.

c. Reference item concerning "XM-706 Armored Car Weapon Racks",
section II, page 7, paragraph 2b(3); concur. The CAR-15 rifle is no
longer being procured and will not be issued in the future to units in RVN.
An EIR to correct the incompatible weapon racks should be submitted by the
unit.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



C. D. WILSON
1LT, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy Furn:
97th MP Bn
18th MP Bde

GPOP-DT (12 Aug 69) 4th Ind

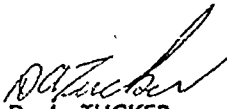
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 97th Military Police Battalion for
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 21 OCT 69

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:


D. A. TUCKER
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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CO, 97th Military Police Battalion		
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